consignment of 10 Air-conditioners which had arrived from Kuwait addressed to the Afghan Embassy. On examination 221 gold biscuits of foreign origin totally weighing 25.76 Kgs. valued at Rs. 55.68 lakhs were recovered from three Air conditioners and seized.

Under the Vienna Convention for Diplomatic Relations, to which India is a signatory, diplomats are immune from the process of law. However, the Government takes appropriate action in all such cases in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs. If diplomats are found involved in smuggling activities, the concerned Governments are requested to recall the diplomats. Those requests are invariably honoured.

Splitting up of LIC

712. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRI BISWA GOSWAMY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reintroduction of the Bill for the splitting up of the Life Insurance Corporation has been deferred; and

(b) if so, what is the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The question of reintroduction of the Bill for the splitting up of the Life Insurance Corporation of India was reviewed by the Govemnent. It has since been decided not to proceed in the matter.

Darjeeling Tea production

713. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total estimated production of Darjeeling tea as at present;

(b) whether the Darjeeling tea gardens need modernisation to boost tea production; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to provide technical and financial assistance to modernise the Darjeeling tea gardens; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Estimated production of tea in Darjeeling in 1984 was 13.2 M.Kgs.

(b) and (c) The tea industry in Darjeeling has been beset by a number of problems because of topography and agro-climatic factors and high cost of production. Darjeeling tea gardens have low productivity because of old age of bushes which are well past their prime. In order to revitalise the Darjeeling tea industry an interest subsidy scheme for revival of these gardens has been sanctioned by the Government. So far 29 schemes for interest subsidy involving bank loans of Rs. 777.26 lakhs have been sanctioned by NABARD.

Introduction of Computer Assessment Systems by the Central Excise Authorities

714. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it s a fact that the Central Excise authorities propose to introduce computer assessment system to check product undervaluation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and